DISNEY COLLECTION
DOES NOT CIRCULATE

A Newsletter for the Horticulture Division of Walt Disney World

Every Bloomin' Thing

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SOIL VS HYDROPONICS

There are no physiological differences between soil and hydroponically grown plants. The nutritional requirements for growth and development are the same in both cases. However, hydroponics does have some advantages over traditional soil production.

Sterilization of the growing medium is quicker and easier with hydroponics. Steam or bleach can be used. In soil production, chemical sterilization is practiced, which is labor intensive and time consuming. At The Land, soil-borne pathogens and weeds are controlled by injecting steam into the sand at 220°F for three hours.

The nutrient salts in a hydroponic system are controlled and provided through an irrigation system that is uniformly distributed in the root zone with little leaching loss. In soil, localized differences in pH, structure, and nutrition can occur, plus fertilizer salts are normally broadcast in large quantities and that can result in non-uniform distribution and up to 80% loss due to leaching.

As a result of increased planting density and optimum growing conditions through controlled environment, (hydroponics is almost always associated with greenhouses) yields can be much greater in a hydroponics situation. Cropping occurs year-round and the vertical dimension is utilized with vining crops. As an example, cucumber which might yield 2000 pounds per acre per year in traditional agriculture can yield up to 28,000 pounds per acre per year in a greenhouse environment.

Ed Bell
The Land

Richard Stone, "Stoney", pictured with a bauhinia, is pointing out the twin lobed leaves. Stoney assists Gwen at Discovery Island several days a week.

ENCOUNTER DISCOVERY ISLAND

When you think of lush tropical foliage, you should picture the eleven acres of Discovery Island. Two species of trees of particular interest are presently in bloom there.

One of these, the white floss silk tree (Chorisia insignis), is native to South America and is briefly deciduous with big blunt spines on the trunk. The flowers are large and showy, white to pale yellow in color and bloom from fall until the first frost.

Another, the Hong Kong orchid tree (Bauhinia blakeana) which is also deciduous for a short period is native to southern China. Common to all the bauhinias which are so named for twin brother botanists are the twin "leaves" (actually twin lobes). Its flowers range from cranberry maroon through rose, purple to orchid pink, often in the same blossoms.

Gwen Keefer
Fort Wilderness

CALIFORNIA

Our weather is finally cooling down. Typically, fog or Santana winds dictate the environment during this time of year. For those of you who don't know what Santana winds are, the following may be interesting.

> Santana wind is a name given to a local climatic condition, typified by warm winds (80° to 90°F), and velocities of up to 70 mph. The wind is caused by cold dense air formed in high altitudes around Colorado, flowing to lower elevations of Southern California. In order to reach Southern California, this air must go through desert-like mountain ranges, which give the wind its typically warm characteristic. As a rule, an air mass will increase in velocity when flowing through a smaller space like the mountain ranges and always moves from a high pressure area (Colorado - cold air) to the lower pressure (Southern California - warm air).

At times these winds are very damaging to plant material. This is because they are very fast and dehydrating, and are opposite of our prevailing cold west winds.

As the seasons change, so do the general colors of the grounds. We are transforming from the yellows and whites of marigolds, alyssum, daisies, vincas, etc., to the blues and reds of pansies, begonias, cyclamen, primula, stocks, violas, etc. Area theming still dictates, but overall, it's a time for our landscape to rest.

Ken Inouye, Superintendent
Disneyland

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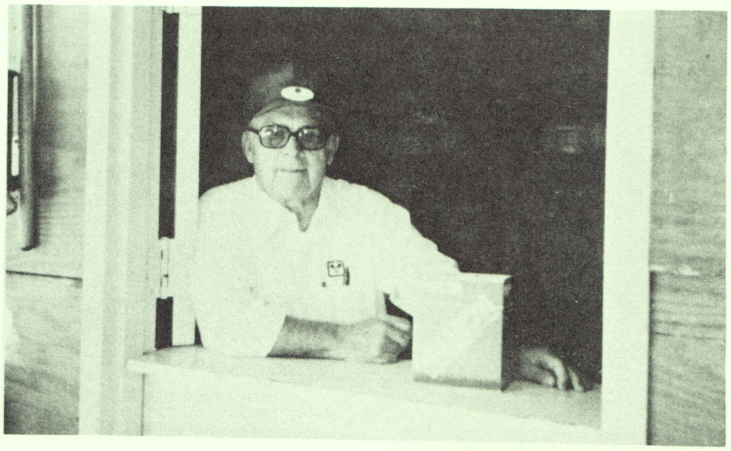
HORTICULTURE CLUB IN ACTION

If you haven't become involved in the Horticulture Club, you have already missed two great trips. Just organized in September, the club has visited Cypress Gardens and Wekiva Falls.

For employee convenience the meetings, held the first Thursday of each month, will start at 3 p.m. and again at 4 p.m. in an attempt to meet everyone's schedule.

What's next for the club? A visit to the fall show for the Florida Caribbean Orchid Association at the Florida Festival is scheduled for December. And after that -- well, why don't you help decide.



Bob Center, pictured at the Pest Control warehouse, is responsible for issuing the chemicals used each day.

PESTICIDE STORAGE

Ideally, it would be best if the home gardener, or any other pesticide user, bought only the amount of chemical needed for one or two spray applications. But because of miscalculations or because of less need than anticipated, there is nearly always an excess of pesticide, causing a need for storage. When storing pesticides, safety and the preservation of the chemical must be considered.

For safety reasons, pesticides must be kept in a locked area where children and animals cannot get to them. There should always be warning signs at all entrances to the storage area. This area should be well lit and well ventilated. Chemicals should not be stored near any food products, feed, clothing, or any other products that may become hazardous if contaminated. Pesticides should be kept in their original containers where any information that may be needed about the pesticide may be quickly obtained.

To help prolong the shelf-life of pesticides, they should be stored in a dry area and out of direct sunlight. The temperature should never go below freezing nor above 100°F. Herbicides should be stored away from other pesticides to prevent contamination and the plant damage that could result.

Gary Crossley, Supervisor
Horticulture Pest Control

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SEMINAR INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

The newly created Seminar Department is looking for instructors to work on a cross-utilization basis (similar to Wonder's) for their Horticulture Seminar. They are looking for individuals with a degree in Horticulture or 3-5 years experience in that area. Applicants must also have good presentation skills and the ability to work with all ages.

If you are interested and have the qualifications, please submit a Personnel Inventory to Sally Baker of the Professional Staffing Office in the Sun Bank Building. If you have any questions, please call Sally at 828-1417.

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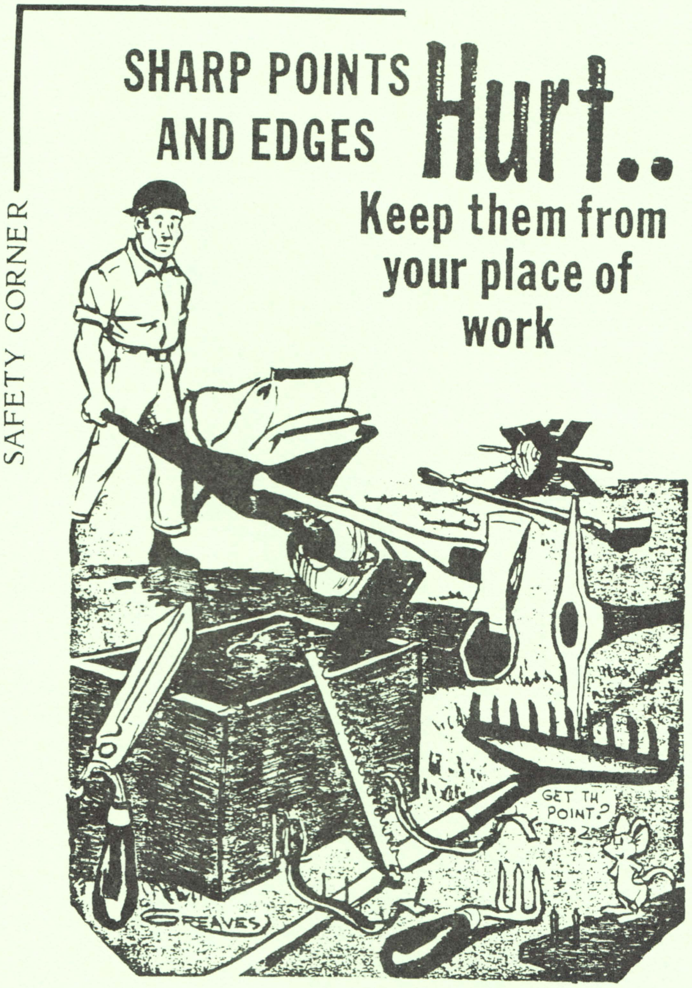
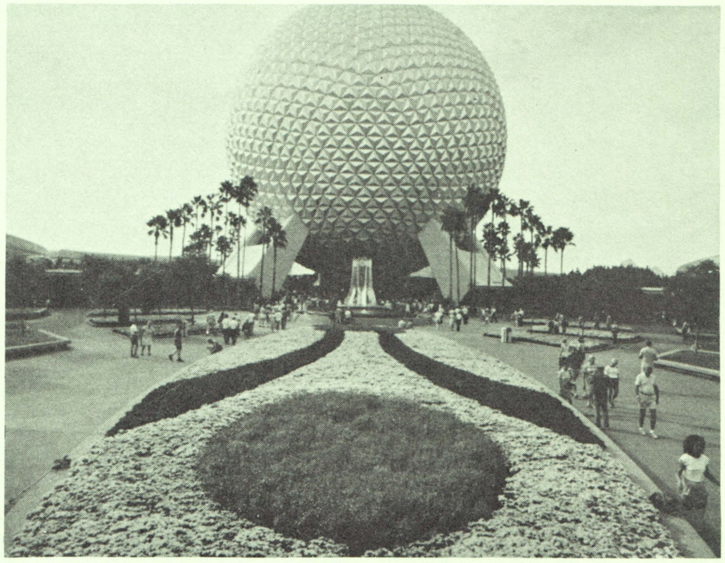
SAFETY CORNER





MAIN ENTRANCE EXPLODES . . . WITH COLOR!

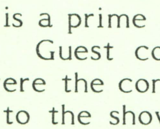
If you were not fortunate enough to visit EPCOT Center during October, you missed quite a spectacular show of color. The center 'Logo' planters and six adjacent planters exploded into bloom. It took over 10,500 6" red and yellow garden mums and 600 blue salvia to put on the extravaganza.

Many hours went into the planting of these beds. With the cooperation of all the main entrance gardeners, we minimized the amount of time the bed was empty. The gardeners involved worked many odd hours in order to bring the show together on time. Expediency was critical since this is a prime picture taking area.

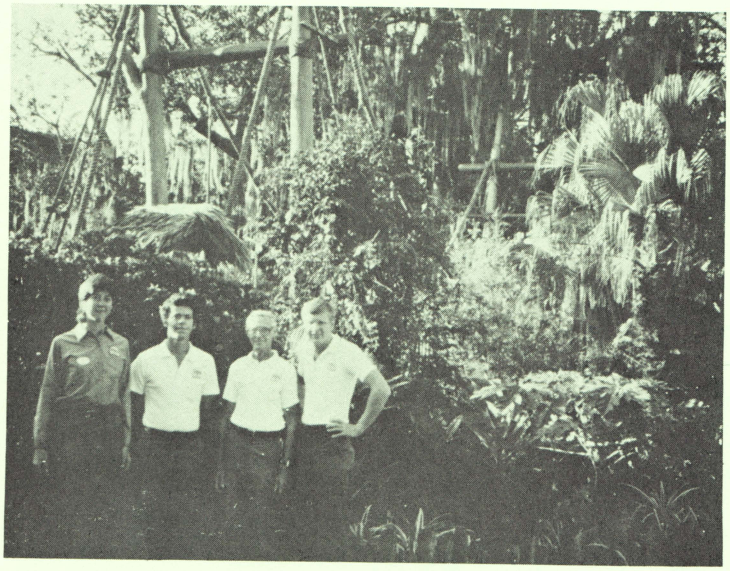
Guest comments were very complimentary as were the comments of fellow employees. A big key to the show's success was the choice of mum varieties, 'Jackpot' for the yellow and 'Ruby Mound' for the red, which worked well together.

For all involved, this year's work was a welcomed change from the labors of just one year ago. Last year the gardeners looked on as a filming helicopter's down-draft totally destroyed this bed one week before opening, consequently the bed became known as the 'Helicopter Bed' -- and how many Horticulturalists can boast of experience in helicopter damage and its effects on annuals?

Jim Ellis, Supervisor
EPCOT Center



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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PANTRY AND STORED FOOD PESTS

The Structural Pest Control Department faces many species of stored product pests. Most of these pests are introduced by infested food, either loose or packaged. All items are susceptible including spices, hot pepper, ice cream cones, cereals, grits, cake mixes, flour, etc. There are three general feeders we are concerned with -- beetles that will eat just about anything.

Drug Store Beetle - a brown, cylindrical beetle about 1/10" long - feeding on flour, cereals, red pepper, dog food and almost any drug found in pharmacies.

Cigarette Beetle - a light brown oval beetle about 1/10" long - feeding on tobacco, upholstery, seeds, peppers, dried plant products and drugs.

Saw-toothed Grain Beetle - a brownish beetle about 1/10" long - feeding on grain, cereals, dried fruits, nuts, seeds, sugar, candy, tobacco, and dried meats. Adults are sometimes found outdoors under the bark of trees.

Cleanliness and regular inspection are important factors in preventing damage to stored products. Susceptible items should be stored in sealable containers. If problems exist, discard all infested items. Clean cabinets and shelves and treat cracks and crevices with a chemical labeled for this problem.

Ernie Kembro, Supervisor
Structural Pest Control

A LANDSCAPE THAT TASTES AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS

At the end of October the Swiss Family Tree House underwent a total rehab. A major part of the rehab consisted of alterations in the landscape. Pentas, Boston fern, and liriope were replaced with a garden that meets the needs of the Robinson family. Pineapple plants, both variegated and evergreen, were used to add both tropical color and fruit. The tropical garden of economics and exotics is composed of a background of bananas and breadfruit (Artocarpus altilis), the pineapple plants for a groundcover, with specimens of coralberry (Ardisia crenata) and papaya (Carica papaya).

Continuing the Adventureland theme of bright colors and informal design, Joy, Ed, Dave and Joe, pictured to the left, from left to right, planted red ixora and crotons to accent the entrance. Speaking of entrances, we the Adventureland crew welcome all to enjoy!

Joy Dorst, Joe Kalinowski, Dave
Lockwood and Ed Wise
The Adventureland Crew

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THE REST OF THE STORY . . .

We know of the Swiss Family Robinson Tree House in the Magic Kingdom and the fact that the giant artificial tree is modeled after a Ficus bengalensis or banyan tree. Indeed in the book, author Johann David Wyss describes the tree in which the Robinson Family made their home in, as an enormous banyan; figs, aerial roots and all.

However, in the making of Walt Disney's 1960 movie "Swiss Family Robinson" on the island of Tobago, the filmmakers used a "stand in" for the banyan. The tree house was built in a colossal Samanea saman or rain tree which according to Edwin Menninger measured some 250 feet wide and 200 feet high!

The rain tree, a legume, has also been known as Enterlobium saman, Pithecellobuim saman and Mimosa saman by various taxonomists. This indicates it may be close "cousins" with the ear tree, texas ebony and sensitive plant. The Tree Farm/Nursery currently has three 4' tall specimens of Samanea saman growing in containers. Who knows, maybe someday we'll build a tree house in one of them!

. . . And now you know the rest of the story.

Chip Drew, Supervisor
Tree Farm/Nursery

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